



Douglas squirrel  
*Tamiasciurus douglasii*



Porcupine  
*Erethizon dorsatum*



Mountain lion  
*Puma concolor*

Mount Rainier National Park is home to 54 species of mammals, 126 species of birds, and 17 species of amphibians and reptiles.

Though you are not likely to see all of them, there are a variety of birds and mammals you may encounter while in the park. Some of these animals are easy to spot, such as black-tailed deer that graze in the meadows. Other species take patience and a good eye to see, like the blue grouse whose camouflage markings hide it from predators.

Knowledge of these different species and what is appropriate behavior around them will enhance your experience and protect both you and wildlife from harm.

*Mount Rainier provides habitat for many species of animals. When you visit the park, you are visiting their home. The choices you make have a direct effect on the wild animals that live here. By following the simple steps you can help protect these animals and help keep wildlife wild.*



Above: Cascade fox  
*Vulpes vulpes cascadenis*

## Keep the *WILD* in Wildlife

Biologists at Mount Rainier National Park have noticed a change in the natural behavior of the park's wildlife. Some animals that have been fed by people are now "food-conditioned"—meaning, they seek out people for food. They learn to steal from picnic tables, trash cans, and will even forage through your belongings. This behavior is unsafe for both wildlife and park visitors. We need your help to stop this unnatural behavior and keep wildlife wild.

Feeding wildlife can be as direct as offering a bit of your lunch, to leaving your food or garbage exposed for animals to find. It may take just one experience for an animal to learn "people" equals "food."

Wildlife depend on natural behavior for survival. Once a wild animal becomes food-conditioned it loses its natural fear of people and public places. Not feeding park animals keeps you safe and the wildlife wild.



Townsend's chipmunk  
*Tamias townsendii*



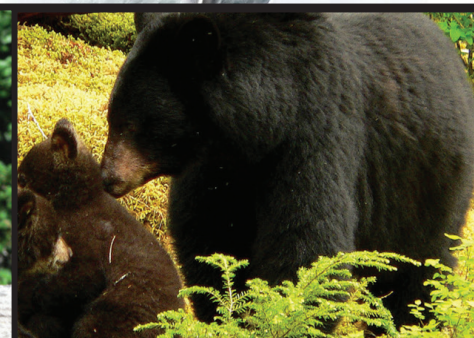
Elk  
*Cervus canadensis*



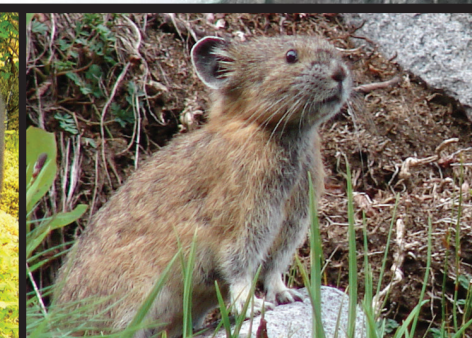
Coyote  
*Canis latrans*



Sooty Grouse  
*Dendragapus fuliginosus*



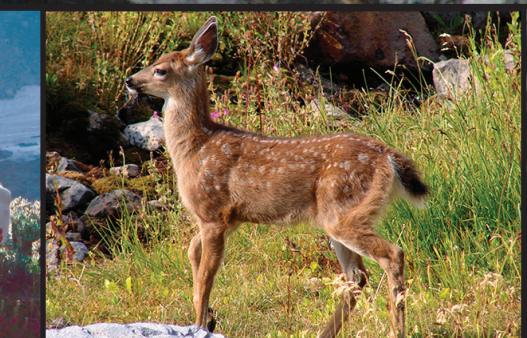
Black bear  
*Ursus americanus*



Pika  
*Ochotona princeps*



Mountain goat  
*Oreamnos americanus*



Black-tailed deer fawn  
*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*

## Nest-Robbing Species (Corvids)



Raven  
*Corvus corax*



Clark's nutcracker  
*Nucifraga columbiana*



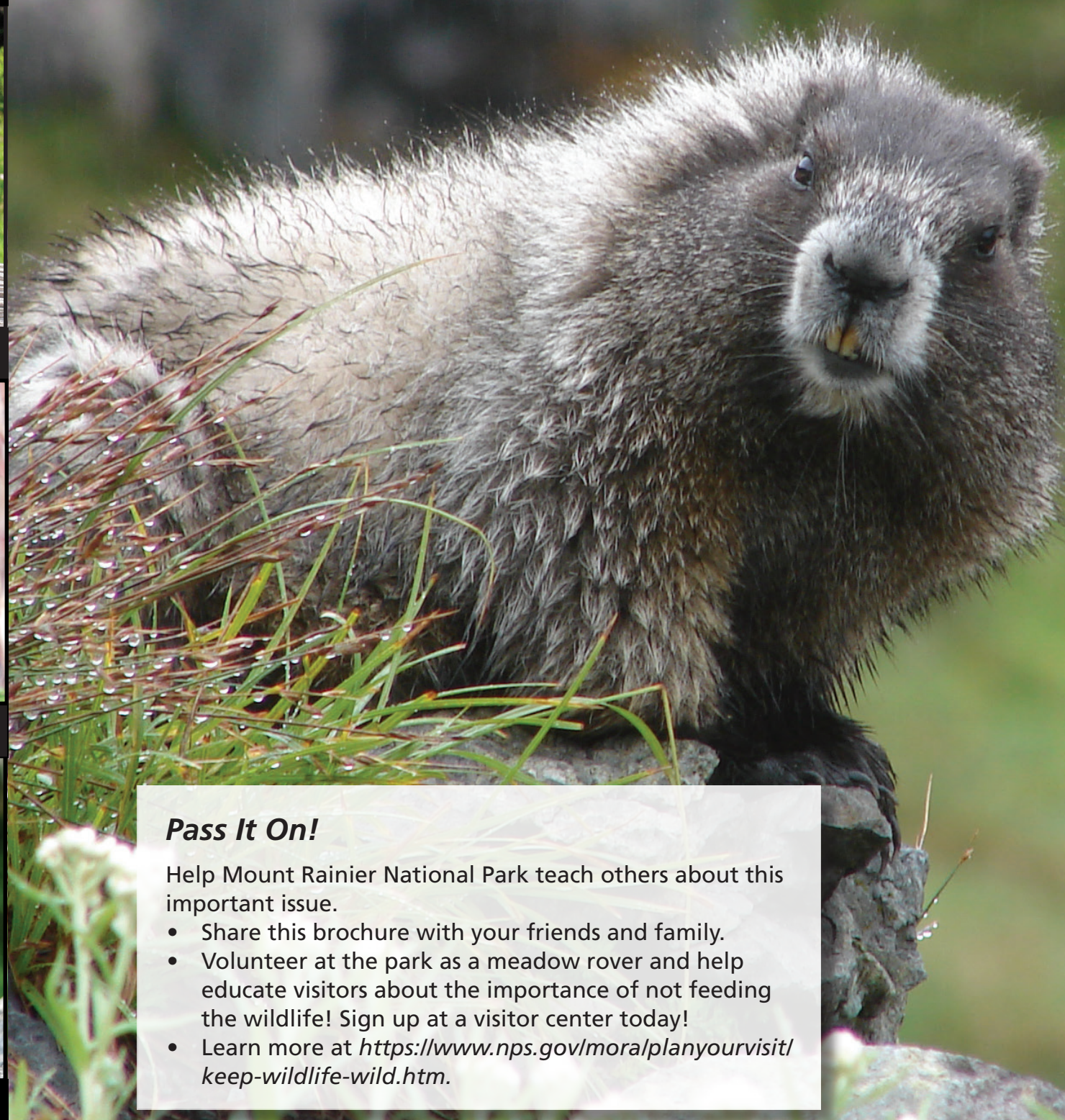
Steller's jay  
*Cyanocitta stelleri*



Gray jay  
*Perisoreus canadensis*



*Cascade red fox may easily become conditioned to human food and seek out visitors along roads and pullouts. Spending a majority of their time along roads in search of food has caused many foxes to be struck by cars.*



### Pass It On!

Help Mount Rainier National Park teach others about this important issue.

- Share this brochure with your friends and family.
- Volunteer at the park as a meadow rover and help educate visitors about the importance of not feeding the wildlife! Sign up at a visitor center today!
- Learn more at <https://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/keep-wildlife-wild.htm>.

## Feeding Wildlife Can Harm You

- Animals in the park can carry infectious diseases and parasites that are transmittable to humans.
- Animals can attack if they become frightened by a person getting too close.
- Feeding causes wild animals to lose their natural fear of humans.
- They are still wild animals and can be unpredictable!
- Feeding small mammals and birds increases their concentration in one area and can attract larger predators like bears and mountain lions. If these predators become habituated to people, small pets and children could be at risk.

## Feeding Wildlife Harms Animals

- Nest predators like jays and ravens will be attracted to the area and therefore may decrease populations of songbirds inhabiting that area
- Wildlife will be drawn to areas with high vehicle traffic, causing animals to get struck by cars.
- Many animals have specialized diets and the wrong foods can negatively affect their health.



**Do not feed or approach wildlife... For your safety and theirs.**

## Food-Conditioned Animals



A squirrel robbing a pack may bite or pass disease.



A gray jay aggressively seeking humans for food.



A raccoon scavenging unsecured dumpster for food.



A hoary marmot loitering near parking area for food.